

BUSTARDS IN NORTH-WEST AND KIMBERLEY AREAS

Mr. D. C. Gooding, Vermin Control Research Officer of the Department of Agriculture, who has recently spent some time in northern areas, reports that he saw no bustards at all while travelling through the west Kimberleys this year. This, he says, was in marked contrast to last year, when the numbers seen were fairly

large, approximately 10 or 12 each day. The area covered by this year's survey was approximately double that of 1952. Mr. Gooding thinks that the adverse season experienced in these parts last year may have been a controlling factor on the population of these birds. The year 1953, he reports, will probably be as bad seasonally as, if not worse than, that of 1952.

In 1952 there was some carry-over of food from the previous good season, whereas 1953, which follows a bad season, may lead to very poor survival of any wild fowl. Further observations made in the Port Hedland, Abydos, Woodstock, Bamboo Springs, Bonnie Downs, Nullagine and Marble Bar areas showed no record of any bustards.

WHALING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The table below shows the production of whales at all West Australian stations from the opening of the current season to Saturday, July 25.

Station	No. of whales taken			Average Length (Ft.)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Both sexes
Carnarvon	148	144	292	38.78	41.05	39.88
Point Cloates	*77	119	*196	38.85	40.62	39.93
Albany	38	31	69	39.36	40.03	39.66
Totals or Averages	263	294	557	38.87	40.77	39.87

* Includes four whales eaten by sharks. Sex doubtful.

It is interesting to compare these figures with those obtained by the floating factory "Frango", which operated in Shark Bay in 1938. "Frango's" take for the season totalled 913 whales (511 males; 402 females). The males averaged 38.61 feet in length, while the females averaged 40.2 feet.